




FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

	Policy Number: 101-13	Effective Date: 08/17/16	
	Subject: Knives and Edged Instruments		
	Approved by:  Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police		

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for the use of edged instruments by Farmington Police Department personnel.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to regulate the types and use of edged instruments carried by on duty sworn personnel, Park Rangers, Code Compliance Officers, and Community Service Officers.

PROCEDURE:

The Department recognizes that a knife or other edged instrument may be a necessary tool while conducting law enforcement duties. Officers might utilize these tools to perform emergency rescue and for other utility cutting purposes.

On duty personnel may carry a tactical rescue (i.e. folding knife), on their person. The cutting edge of such an instrument is not to exceed five inches. Instruments must be black in color or have a stainless steel finish. Knives and edged instruments may not be worn in an offensive or alarming manner such as with an exposed blade. Exceptions to these guidelines may be made by Shift or Division Lieutenants regarding special assignments or job duties.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team members, while engaged in SWAT duties, are required to carry an edged instrument of a quality suitable for the task of those duties. SWAT members, and those officers specifically trained in the proper carry and deployment of such equipment, are permitted to carry a fixed blade either upon a load bearing vest or in any other manner of attachment deemed safe, as determined by the SWAT Commander.

Edged instruments must be secured in either a scabbard (fixed blade) or folded, and secured by a clip or other fastening device to ensure officer safety, retention and concealment of the blade from public display. On duty personnel may carry a folding knife in plain view, but it must not be displayed in an offensive manner.

Edged instruments are considered to be a utility tool used to accomplish law enforcement activities and are not considered a weapon. However, personnel may use a knife or edged instrument to protect their own life or the life of another in circumstances when the use of deadly force is authorized. Accordingly, police officers are authorized to use a knife as a weapon in order to:

1. Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury;

2. To prevent the escape of or stop a suspected felon who has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical injury and has the ability to carry out that action or threat.

Where feasible, some warning should be given prior to engaging in the use of the knife. Officers should give appropriate medical assistance to injured suspects in circumstances where the officer's safety is no longer in jeopardy.

When a knife or edged instrument is used as a part of the force continuum, a Response to Aggression report shall be completed.

Any incident involving officer injury must be reported to a supervisor as soon as possible.

Approval Process:

The Department recommends that personnel carry knives or edged instruments of quality design, strength, safety and durability. Each officer, Park Ranger, Code Compliance Officer and Community Service Officer is responsible for the purchase of their own knife based on the procedures outlined in this policy.

The knife or edged instrument must be inspected and approved for use by the Training Unit prior to being carried. Requests to carry a knife or edged instrument are submitted in writing in the form of an inter-office memorandum to the Training Unit. Approval is based on the knife or edged instrument meeting the above listed quality standards. A list of approved knives and edged instruments is maintained by the Training Unit.

Once the request is approved by the Training Unit, it is forwarded to the requesting officer's Division or Shift Lieutenant for their approval. The approved request is maintained in the officer's personnel file and a copy is returned to the officer.